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25X1

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

IB - 165/64
31 March 1964
Copy # ____

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Manufacturing and Services Division, ORR

25X1 ATTENTION : [redacted]

THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CCS

FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT : Study of roads connecting Laos with Burma, China and North Vietnam

REFERENCES : (1) ORR Requirement No. C-RR4-81,026
(2) PID Project No. C-282/64

1. This memorandum is a response to the referenced requirement which asks for a study of roads connecting Laos with Burma, China and North Vietnam. This study will include state of construction, alignment, condition, bridging, current construction on roads, as well as the location of all truck convoys giving direction of movement and number of vehicles.

2. Portions of the following photo missions were used in the process of completing this requirement:

25X1 [redacted]

3. The enclosed graphics (CIA/PID/IB-P-516/64 through P-521/64) show the location and general condition of roads which were observed nearing the Laotian border or crossing it.

4. For ease, the discussion of the roads have been broken down into three parts, one for each bordering country:

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

[redacted] Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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a. Laos - Burma Border. No roads were observed crossing the Laos - Burma border.

b. Laos - China Border. Only one road crosses the Laos - China border (see CIA/PID/IB-P-518/64) at approximately 21 26N - 101 45E. This is the newly constructed road, opened in 1963, which terminates at Phong Saly (21 41N - 102 06E). This is a two-lane, improved road which traverses an area with relative steep relief. There are many curves and switch-backs which greatly reduce the grades.

There are four single-lane unimproved roads radiating short distances from Muong Sing (21 12N - 101 09E). One of these roads extends to within two nautical miles of the Laos - China border and to within four nautical miles of a single-lane, unimproved road in China, which makes connections with the main two-lane road linking Laos with China (see CIA/PID/IB-P-518/64).

C. Laos - North Vietnam Border. North from Route 7 only four roads were observed crossing the border. There also were three other areas where roads were observed nearing the border; however, only trails crossed.

An improved single-lane road extends generally northeast from Houei Yeui (21 11N - 102 49E), crosses the border at 21 13N - 102 55E (see CIA/PID/IB-P-519/64), and continues on to Dien Bien Phu (21 23N - 103 01E). This road has many switch-backs near the border, as it crosses a divide. West from Houei Yeui this road was single-lane and unimproved. It became a trail at approximately 21 09N - 102 42E. Near Houei Yeui there are two fords.

Route 6, an improved, single-lane road, crosses the Laos - North Vietnam border at 20 44N - 104 29E (see CIA/PID/IB-P-520/64), and continues on to Sam Neua (20 25N - 104 29E). There is a ferry crossing the Nam Ma (River) at Ban Sop Bau (20 43N - 104 22E). There are many small bridges along this route. Although Route 6 is designated as a single-lane road, it appears that two vehicles can pass at most points along the route if one vehicle halts or slows down considerably.

A third route, crossing the border at approximately 20 18N - 104 47E, makes connections with Route 6 in Laos at 20 28N - 104 12E (see CIA/PID/IB-P-520/64). This is a single-lane, improved road which appears wide enough for vehicles to pass with extreme caution. A possible maintenance facility is located just inside the Laos border at approximately 20 17N - 104 46E.

Route 7 is a single-lane, improved road which is wide enough for vehicles to pass with caution in most places. This road crosses the border at 19 28N - 104 05E (see CIA/PID/IB-P-521/64). A truck convoy of approximately

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SECRET NOFORN EYES

14 vehicles was observed headed west near the border in May 1963.

The three areas where roads were observed nearing the border are all shown on CIA/PID/IB-P-520/64. The first is just east of Route 7 at approximately 20 30N - 104 30E/ The second road is north of Bop Fan (20 51N - 104 05E). Here an unimproved, single-lane road extends north and east toward the border. It becomes a trail approximately 3.5 nautical miles south of the border and 4.5 nautical miles south of the road inside North Vietnam. The third area is north of Muong Het (20 49N - 104 01E) where an unimproved, single-lane road becomes a trail 4.5 nautical miles south of the border and 7 nautical miles from a road system in North Vietnam.

5. No new road construction was observed. The level of traffic was extremely low and with exception of the one convoy previously noted, only an occasional vehicle was observed.

25X1 6. The photo analyst assigned to this project was [redacted] who may be contacted on [redacted] should you have further questions concerning this requirement. This project is considered complete. 25X1

25X1

[redacted]

Enclosures:
4 Annotated Charts
(CIA/PID/IB-P-518/64 thru P-521/64)

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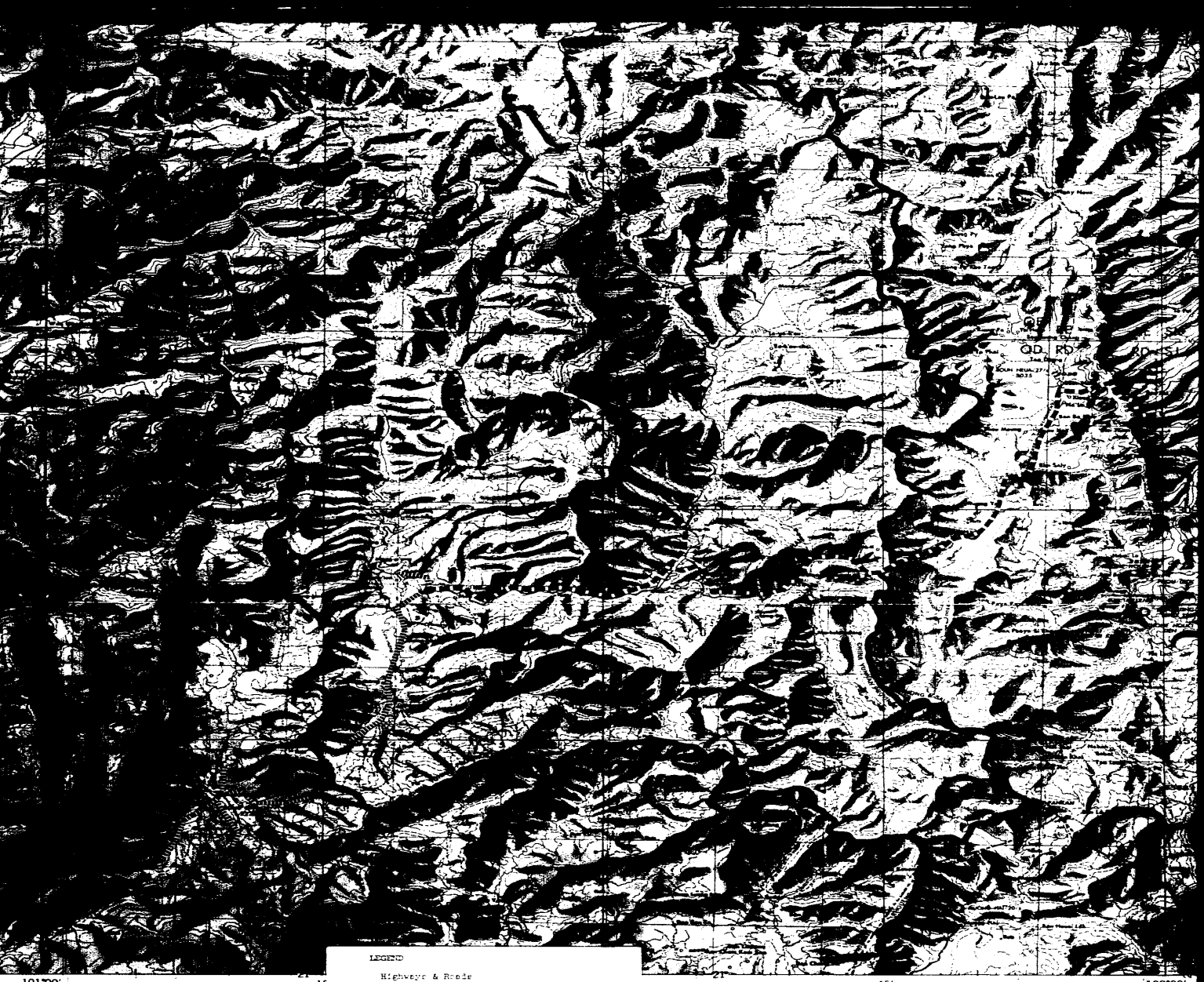

AERONAUTI

Scale 1:2

TRANSVERSE MERCA

ELEVATIONS IN FEET

SHOWN IN BLACK

SECRET NOFORN DISSEM

AGC-NF 47-12

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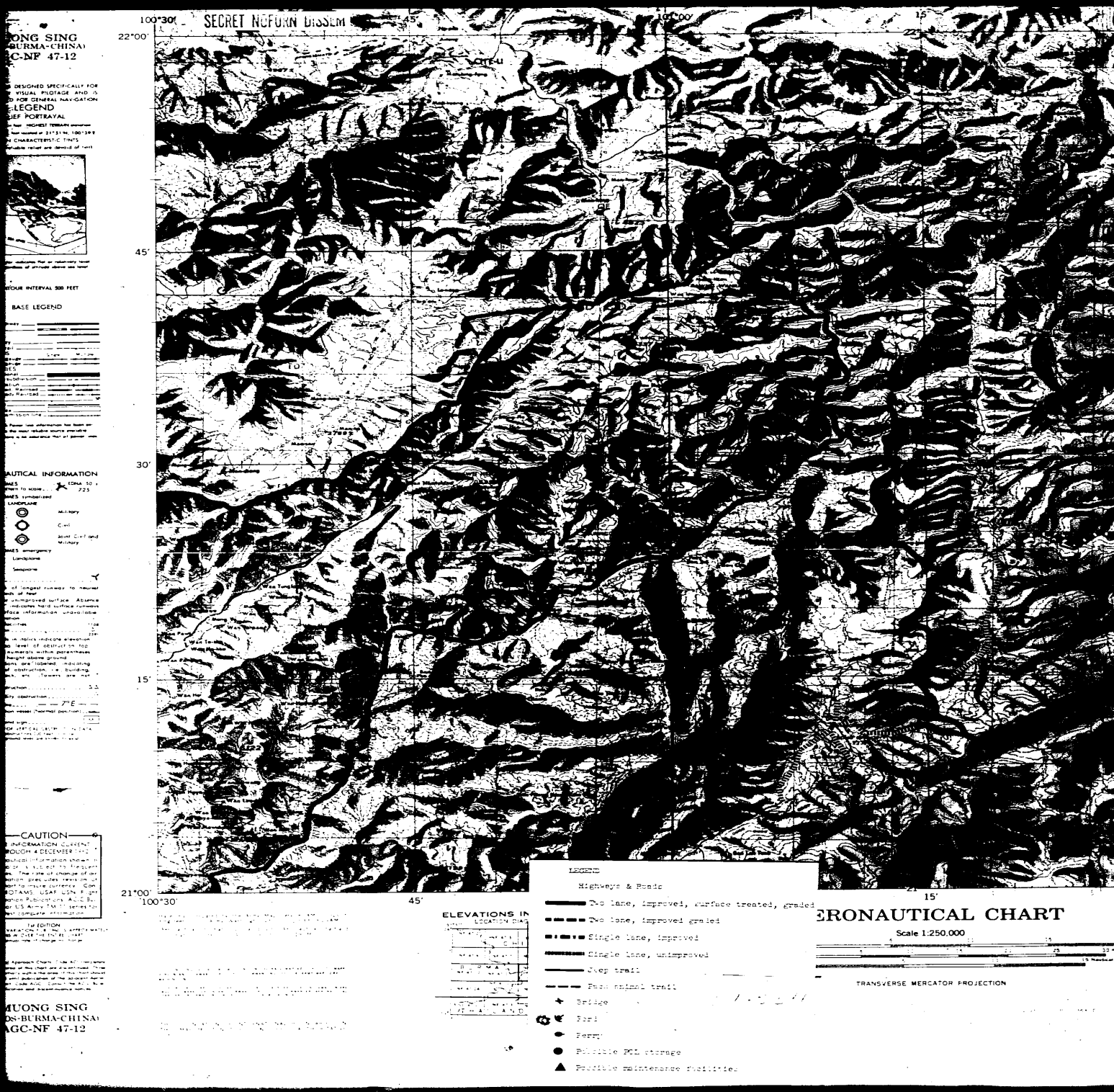

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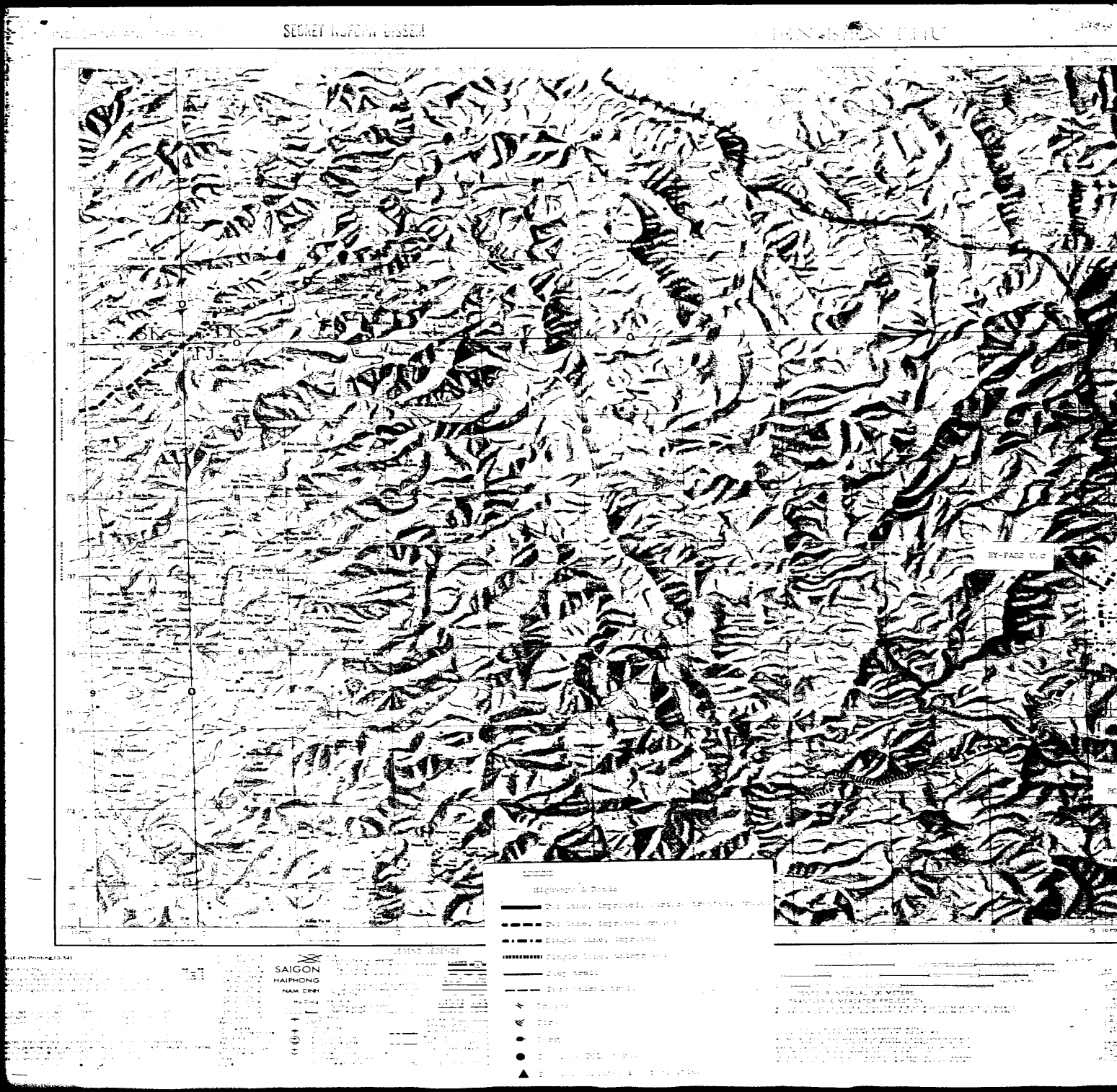

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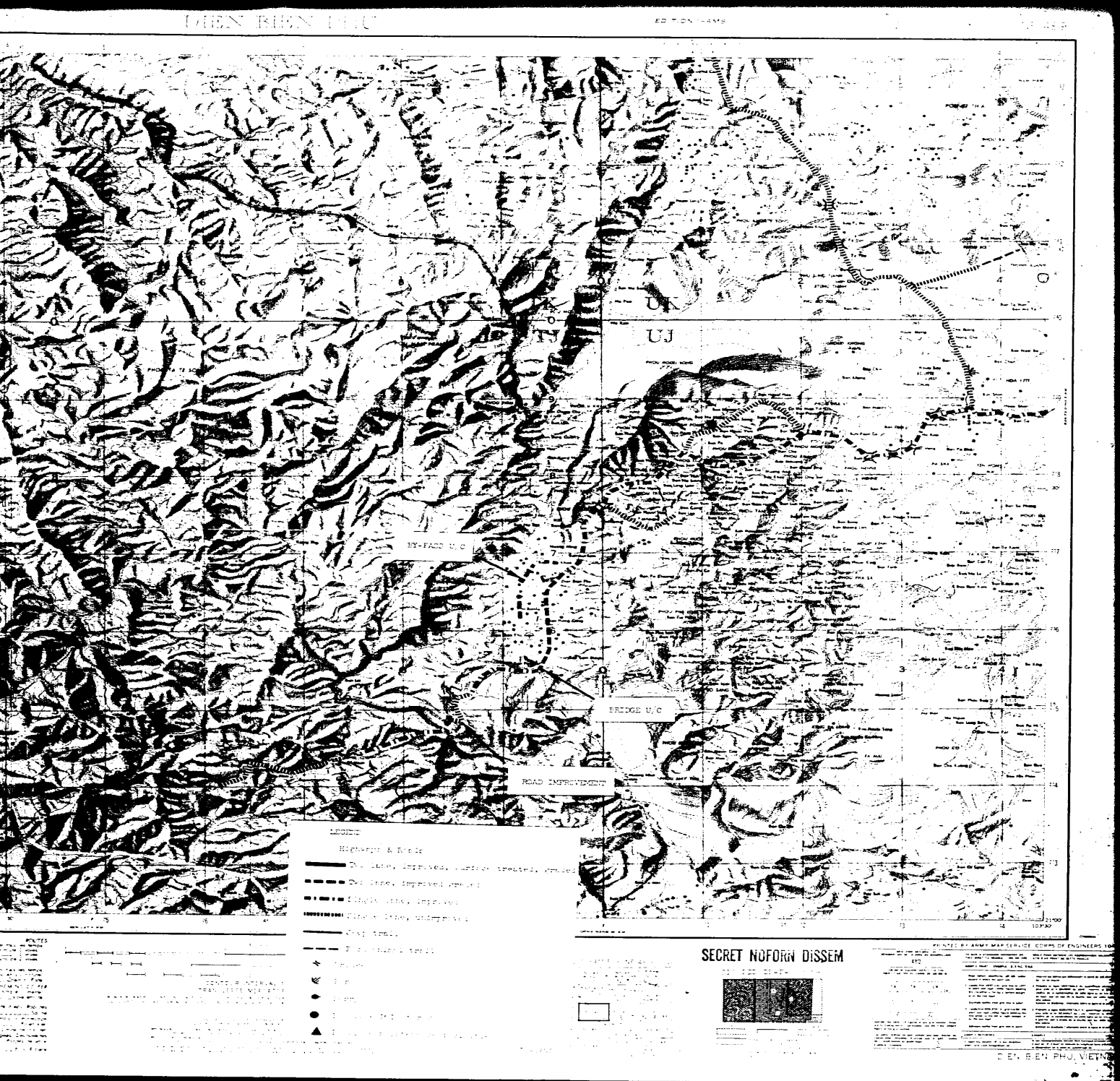

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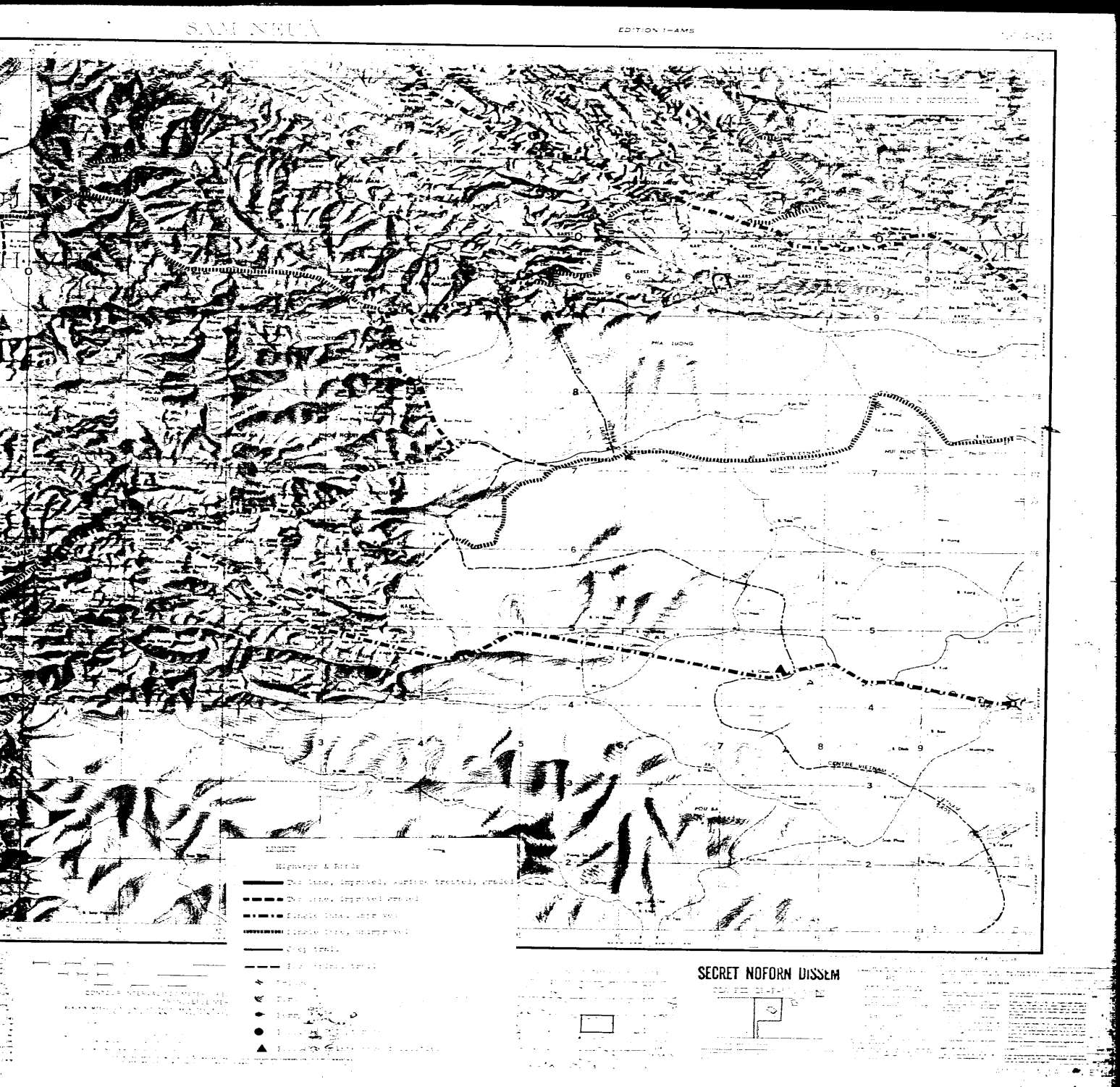

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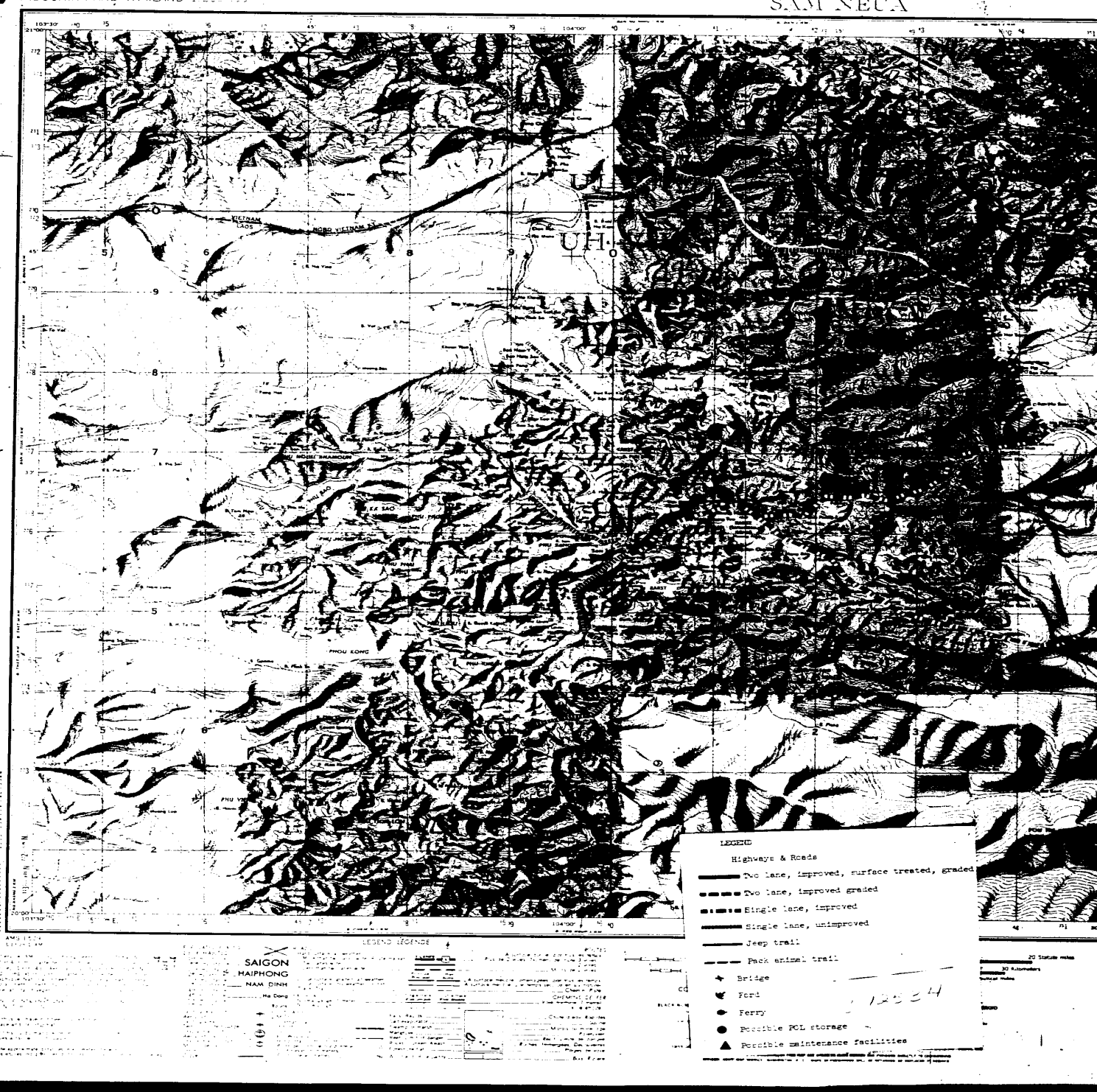
INDOCHINA AND THAILAND 1:250,000 SECRET NOFORN DISSEM



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104° 40' 15' 45' 105°00'

AERONAUTICAL CHART

SEC

Scale 1:250,000

TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

LEGEND

Highways & Roads

- Two lane, improved, surface treated, graded
- Two lane, improved graded
- Single lane, improved
- Single lane, unimproved
- Jeep trail
- Pack animal trail
- Bridge
- Ford
- Ferry
- Possible POL storage
- Possible maintenance facilities

AGC-NE 48-2

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SECRET NOFORN DISSEM

103°30'

20°00'

45'

30'

15'

19°00'

103°30'

15'

LEGEND

Highways & Roads

Two lane, improved, surface treated, graded

Two lane, improved graded

Single lane, improved

Single lane, unimproved

Jeep trail

Pack animal trail

Bridge

Ford

Ferry

Possible POL storage

Possible maintenance facilities

AERONAUTICAL CHART

Scale 1:250,000

TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

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